



AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB, Texas



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2 S.A. companies win Brooks pacts

Two San Antonio-based high-tech services companies have been awarded a five-year defense contract to provide technical advice and support to the Air Force's 311th Human Systems Wing at Brooks City-Base.

TerraHealth Inc. and Core6 Solutions LLC, both medical information technology, engineering and logistics providers, will compete for tasks within the contract, valued at \$70 million with a provision to increase it to \$99 million, said Marty Bartlett, a TerraHealth senior vice president.

Total Warfighter Support, a division of TerraHealth, will be working with a subcontractor, SpecPro Inc., on its share of the contract. SpecPro is an Alaska Native corporation with an office in San Antonio.

Core6 Solutions is a joint venture of two other San Antonio-based companies: dNovus RDI and Conceptual MindWorks Inc.



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Focus: Military Chaplains

Web Posted: 02/04/2006 12:00 AM CST

San Antonio Express-News

Aim to be inclusive

The Rev. C.B. Harper laments that Air Force chaplains are prohibited from invoking the name of Jesus in public prayer in his "Speak Out" column "Air Force policy raises questions for chaplains and all Christians" (Religion, Jan. 28).

In Christian churches and other specifically Christian gatherings, praying in Jesus' name is appropriate and acceptable.

However, it is different when people pray before groups in the wider community. They cease to be individuals expressing their own sectarian religious viewpoints. Rather, they represent the entire assemblage, with its wide diversity of beliefs, before God. In these situations, they should seek to be as inclusive and as sensitive as possible with their words.

Doing otherwise only offends and hurts those who do not share the religious beliefs of the prayer leader.

Rabbi Samuel M. Stahl

Church-state question

The Rev. C.B. Harper indeed raises an important point. If Air Force chaplains may no longer invoke the names of their gods in public prayer — Jesus Christ, Allah, Buddha or whomever — then what's the point of them serving as ministers of their particular faith traditions?

He quotes Focus on the Family Vice President Tom Minnery on this absurdity: This new policy "is just totally unworkable in an arena in which you are asking people to give the ultimate sacrifice. If the military hires chaplains, the military endorses religion."

Ah! There's the rub! Harper's complaint leads to a broader question of the interrelationship between religion and the state. In quoting Minnery, he unintentionally acknowledges that the long, revered tradition of the U.S. military chaplaincy may itself be a violation of the First Amendment — that is, insofar as the government has established and upholds this exercise of religion in a state institution. Churches and other religious bodies do not pay the salaries and other expenses of military chaplains; taxpayers do.

Harper wonders whether no public prayer in the name of Jesus by Christian chaplains in a branch of the armed forces is one more sign of a growing muzzling of Christian expression in our nation as a whole. Aside from matters of tradition and practicality, others might instead ask about the constitutional grounds for a military chaplaincy at all. Just some food for thought.

A.J. Watt,

San Antonio Express News

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 6 Feb 06



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New Braunfels

Policy is reasonable

The Rev. C.B. Harper's Jan. 28 views require clarification at a minimum and probably a simple rebuttal.

I, and most reasonable readers, expect a preacher to stand up for his right to say what he pleases where he pleases; however, this guy goes over the top.

An absurd comment deserves special note. He said, "If this happens in the military (control of religious expression), it can happen in our nation at large." What rot! Faith-based initiatives aside, the government does not pay preacher salaries in this country, and some of them say the craziest things — turn on Sunday TV.

The government does pay chaplains, and — guess what — chaplains are military officers. It is perfectly OK for commanders to tell their officers what to do when they are on duty. This is how the system has always worked.

Richard O'Bryant

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PAGE: Internet
POSTED: 6 Feb 06



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More down-to-earth training by Air Force

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Sig Christenson
Express-News Military Writer

If today's airmen found a silver lining beyond the predawn 5-mile marches of basic training at Lackland AFB, it might be that the whole miserable experience lasted only 6 1/2 weeks — the shortest of any service branch.

So much for silver linings.

Starting next year, Air Force trainees will endure an additional two weeks of training designed to make things tougher and more realistic — right down to their own personal M-16, officials said Friday.

"Extending basic military training will produce more lethal and adaptable airmen," said Gen. William R. Looney III, head of the Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB.

The realities of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, where every soldier, sailor, airman and Marine is a rifleman facing an enemy on a 360-degree battlefield, have transformed basic training across the services.

Ground combat fundamentals are the heart of an increasingly rigorous training doctrine for all military services.

When the new Air Force training begins in fall 2007, all four services will conclude boot camp with an extended final exam that tests endurance, skill and mental fortitude.

The evolution of Air Force training isn't only about push-ups, sit-ups, 2-mile runs and marksmanship. The new course, which still remains shorter than the Army, Navy or Marines, aims to create a new state of mind for a service that's technical and often far from the front.

"We're not trying to make every airmen into an Army infantryman, but we're trying to make them more expeditionary so they can go into a conflict, protect themselves and protect their wingman," said Brig. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, chief of Lackland's 37th Training Wing.

Enlistees still will spend just one day on Lackland's firing range. But they'll get what she called a "demilitarized" M-16 rifle on the second day of training that they can clean, break down and reassemble — but can't fire.

They won't get hand-to-hand combat training or be taught to bayonet enemy combatants. They will, however, learn to act as a defense force and get extensive training on basic battlefield first aid, including how to stop bleeding and take wounded troops to safety.

The tougher training isn't new. Dubbed the "chair force" by some critics for its relatively light physical conditioning standards, the Air Force in 1999 introduced "Warrior Week" to its basic training curriculum.

San Antonio Express News

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 6 Feb 06



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The idea was to prepare airmen for service in troubled, austere locales where soldiering skills make the difference between life and death.

The Air Force last year veered off from time-honored traditions such as the meticulous folding of T-shirts, shorts and socks and edged toward a greater combat focus.

A big change in the new training program, which will include a \$28 million basic expeditionary skills training exercise area, will be the phase-out of Warrior Week. In its place will be BEAST — Basic Expeditionary Airman Skills and Training Exercise, to run five days during Week 6 of boot camp.

Airmen will defend a mock base night and day from an opposition force as part of the exercise, Hertog said.

Forward operating bases in Iraq, including the country's largest U.S. Air Force installation in Balad north of Baghdad, often have been hit by mortar rounds since the occupation.

"There really are no front lines or rear areas," said Andrew Krepinevich Jr., a former aide to three defense secretaries who now heads the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. "This notion of sort of a World War II environment where you had these air bases well behind the lines, that really doesn't square anymore in a world with al-Qaida, Iraqi insurgents and so on."

Though much of the extra training time will emphasize soldiering skills, the Air Force will add sessions on sexual assault reporting and suicide prevention, and will continue one on the service's history and heritage.

Efforts to reverse sexual harassment incidents, which occurred at the Air Force Academy and some AETC bases, come from the top. Gen. T. Michael Moseley, Air Force chief of staff, has vowed to "provide a workplace with dignity and respect, and a safe environment for our people to serve honorably."

The primary focus, though, will be grafting more of the infantryman's mentality on airmen.



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Speak Out: Some evangelicals going out of bounds at Air Force Academy

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Michael J.C. Roth
Special to the Express-News

On Jan. 28, the Religion section of the Express-News carried a column by the Rev. C.B. Harper titled "Air Force policy raises questions for chaplains and all Christians."

The policy to which he referred is one that prohibits a prayer "invoking the name of Jesus Christ" in a public ceremony. In this case it was an Air Force retirement. He mentioned my name and suggested that I agreed with his objection to this policy. That's not quite right.

The Rev. Harper and I met because both of us had become involved in the religious situation at the Air Force Academy. I am a 1963 graduate of USAFA and spent nine years as an Air Force pilot. In the spring of 2004 I was asked to look at the situation that had developed at the academy, both because of my Air Force experience and because I am a Jew.

There seemed, at first, to be two issues. One was several instances of religious slurs hurled at Jewish and atheist cadets. This was a shock to me because in my four years as a cadet and nine years as pilot I never encountered a single such incident.

After several months of investigation I concluded that such incidents were indeed rare. The vast majority of cadets and Air Force people find such behavior abhorrent.

The second issue had substance. That is an intrusion of evangelical Christianity into official Air Force venues.

One of the first events I looked into was an ad that had appeared in the academy newspaper for about 10 years. It was couched as a "Christmas Greeting." It began with "Jesus is the Reason for our Season!" and continued, "We believe that Jesus Christ is the only real hope for the world. If you would like to discuss Jesus, feel free to contact one of us!"

That was followed by about 200 names arranged in groups. The names included the dean, who was retiring, the new dean, and several other well-known staff and faculty members.

The groups included the superintendent's staff, the dean's staff and academic departments. There was a not-so-subtle message here to all junior officers in these various departments.

I took this ad to Charlie Johnson at Trinity Baptist Church. I showed it to him and asked his opinion of it without any comment from me. Charlie sat quietly for about a minute and then said: "Mickey, this is not a Christmas greeting. It is a very aggressive solicitation." With that, I set out to find the person who placed it in the newspaper.

I was given the name of the person who was head of Christian Leadership Ministries at USAFA. I spoke to that gentleman a couple of times by phone. In our first conversation he said something that shook me.

San Antonio Express News

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 6 Feb 06



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He stated, "Mr. Roth, this isn't really a Christmas greeting. It is a way for Christians at the academy to find each other." I replied that I didn't understand. I said, "I'm a Jewish guy and I've never had trouble finding Christians."

His answer was, "Well, Mr. Roth, you must understand that not all Catholics or Presbyterians or Baptists are Christian." I thought of his words when I read the title the Rev. Harper chose for his article. [Editor's note: Harper did not write the headline.]

As a KC-135 pilot in the mid-1960s, I spent every second week on alert, living in a trailer next to my airplane ready to take off within 15 minutes of a klaxon sounding. In 1965 and 1966, I took the place on alert of a squadron-mate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day so that he could be at home with his family.

At Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, in 1967 I made sure that I was scheduled to fly my A-26 on these nights. And my commanders made sure I was free on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur.

And at NKP, when we mourned the loss of Bob Pietsch and Lou Guillerma, two good friends of mine whose remains are still somewhere in Laos, our chaplain prayed in Jesus' name. That was because it was their memorial observed according to their religion.

But at official Air Force ceremonies, the chaplain did not pray that way, because he knew the wing was composed of Christians, Jews, a Hawaiian with deep ties to the ancient beliefs of his island and many who practiced no religion. That was the Air Force he knew and respected. That is the Air Force I know.



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



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6 Feb 06

February 06, 2006

New HQ names have ‘joint’ ring to them

By [Bruce Rolfsen](#)

Times staff writer

Get out your cheat sheets — the Air Force is handing out new names to its headquarters offices.

Starting Feb. 1, the Air Force is trading in its alphabet soup of office designations — such as DP for personnel, XO for operations and IL for installations and logistics — for a system that brings the Air Force into line with what the other services and joint commands name their headquarters functions.

For example, the Air Force director of operations’ office was known as the XO. But the Army’s operations office was the G3 and the Joint Staff operations was the J3.

Under the new Air Force organization system, called the “A Staff,” the operations office will be called the A3.

“We’re going to be doing joint better. ... When you deploy to a joint task force you’ll know who to talk to,” said Brig. Gen. Marshall “Keye” Sabol, director of manpower and organization at the Pentagon’s Air Staff.

The switch includes Sabol’s Pentagon office, which is changing from DP/M, short for Directorate of Personnel/Manpower, to A1/M. That’s A1, short for personnel under the new system.

The Air Force-wide change won’t result in more headquarters jobs or wholesale realignments. Most airmen will still have the same job on Feb. 1 that they had on Jan. 31.

The Air Force has been moving toward the new system since 2004, when Air Mobility Command made the switch to bring the command in line with the services it was responsible for supplying and transporting.

Last April, then-Vice Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley directed the Air Staff, the major commands and numbered air forces, also known as the “war-fighting headquarters,” to make the transition if they hadn’t already.

Now Moseley is the chief of staff, and in a letter issued in January, he set Feb. 1 as the deadline for the changes to be in place.

Air Force Times
6 Feb 06 Edition



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



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However, the major commands have until May 1 to have their new office designations approved by the Air Staff and to work out questions with the Air Staff on what to name an office.

The goal of the transition is that a soldier, Marine or sailor should be able to identify quickly his office's Air Force counterpart, and that an airman working with another service or joint headquarters shouldn't have to guess what office to contact, Sabol said.

One of the issues facing the major commands has been that their old office designations didn't always match each other or the new system, Sabol said.

For example, Air Combat Command's manpower office was part of plans, called the XP/M. Now the major commands and Air Force headquarters must have manpower in the same office — personnel — and call it A1/M under the new system.

The Air Staff is also sorting through requests for designations that apply only to one command. Air Mobility Command wants an office designated for managing commercial airlift, said Bob Harrison, an organizational analyst on Sabol's staff.

Whatever that name will be for AMC's contract airlift office, the name can't conflict with an office designation at another major command, Harrison said.

At the Air Staff, not every office will be getting a new name, Sabol said. Staffs that come directly under the secretary of the Air Force will keep their current names.

The new naming scheme won't apply to units at the wing level and below, Sabol said. A navigator looking for his wing's intelligence office will still ask for the intelligence office, not the A2.

The new designation system may eventually apply to some of the service's larger direct reporting units such as the Air Force Academy, but so far, no decision has been made, Sabol said.



AETC News Clips

Air Force Times



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6 Feb 06

February 06, 2006

Deep cuts in QDR

Draft recommends Air Force make do with fewer planes, people

By [Laura M. Colarusso](#)

Times staff writer

A draft version of the 2005 Quadrennial Defense Review outlines steep cuts to Air Force people and planes in the near future.

The Air Force will lose the equivalent of 40,000 full-time positions and reduce the B-52 bomber fleet to 56 aircraft, according to the report. The document also states the service will be whittled down to 86 combat wings, a decrease of dozens of units.

Since 1997, Congress has required the Pentagon to submit a QDR that sets the military agenda for new administrations. Defense News obtained a draft version of the 2005 QDR, which was briefed to congressional staff members the week of Jan. 16.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is expected to approve and send the QDR to Congress on Feb. 6, along with the fiscal 2007 budget request.

Recent budget documents had already hinted at a shrinking Air Force. A Dec. 28 budget planning document detailed plans for the Air Force to shed more than 57,000 people by 2011, a total that includes 33,290 active-duty members, 14,464 guardsmen, 7,744 reservists and 2,000 civilians. It also outlined cuts of more than 100 aircraft.

The budget planning document also called for retiring the entire F-117 and U-2 fleets and half of the C-21 fleet, though those cutbacks were not mentioned in the QDR.

The reductions are designed to save cash so the Air Force can put the money toward other priorities.

“It’s pretty clear if you look at the president’s most recent plan — the 2006 budget released last February — the top line for defense is projected to increase only very moderately and may decline at the end of the cycle,” Steven Kosiak, director of budget studies at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said Jan. 12.

“Another big pressure is the pressure from people cost, because military pay and benefits have gone up dramatically in the last five years,” he added.

Lt. Col. Frank Smolinsky, a spokesman at Air Force headquarters, declined to comment because Pentagon officials have not officially released the QDR and the budget.

Air Force Times
6 Feb 06 Edition



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A number of factors — from ballooning health care costs to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which are costing about \$5 billion a month — have tightened the Defense Department budget.

The Air Force has felt the strain, as Defense Department budgeters slashed the service's premier acquisition program, the F-22A Raptor, by \$10 billion and dozens of aircraft in the 2006 budget. Department officials were eying the program for further cuts, but the Air Force leadership convinced the program's detractors to keep production numbers around 180 aircraft.

That victory is codified in the QDR, which states the service will be able to extend production through 2010.

Other QDR decisions affecting the Air Force include:

- Fielding a new land-based, long-range strike vehicle by 2018.
- Slashing the B-52 force to 56 aircraft.
- Reorganizing the Joint Unmanned Combat Air System program to develop a carrier-based aircraft.
- Almost doubling unmanned aerial vehicle coverage by speeding up the purchase of Predators and Global Hawks.
- Fully funding the E-10A — the next-generation battle management aircraft under development — technology demonstrator, but canceling procurement.
- Buying 18 more C-130Js, for a total of about 168 aircraft.
- Recapitalizing the tanker fleet. Left unclear is whether the Air Force will recapitalize existing airframes or buy replacement aircraft.
- Acquiring 180 C-17s and modernizing 112 C-5s.

Going long, using UAVs

Along with detailing cuts to the Air Force's force structure, the QDR also outlines areas where the Air Force will concentrate over the next several years. In addition to increasing UAVs, the document stresses the need for a new long-range strike capability.

"Joint air forces will be capable of rapidly and simultaneously locating and attacking thousands of fixed and mobile targets at global ranges," the document states. "The capacity for joint air



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forces to conduct global conventional strikes against time-sensitive targets will also be increased.”

The Air Force has set a goal of increasing its long-range strike capacity by 50 percent, according to the review. Roughly 45 percent of the future long-range strike force will be unmanned.

For years, Air Force officials have maintained that the current bomber fleets — the B-1 Lancer, B-2 Spirit and B-52 Stratofortress — will last for three more decades. Waiting to replace these fleets would allow engines, materials and other technologies to mature so the service could buy a much more advanced follow-on aircraft.

Keeping the aircraft in the inventory for several years would also allow the Air Force to use its limited funds on other priorities, such as the Raptor and the Joint Strike Fighter. But the Air Force appears to be changing its approach, looking to field a bomber much sooner than originally anticipated.

“I think the Air Force has finally started to realize it’s a long-range strike service,” said John Pike, a military analyst and director of GlobalSecurity.org.

Richard Aboulafia, vice president of analysis for the Teal Group, a defense consulting firm in Fairfax, Va., said that fielding a long-range strike capability by 2018 means the Air Force will have to rely on today’s technology.

“That’s not really pie-in-the-sky stuff,” Aboulafia said. “That’s something that looks like what we have today.”

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